

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00497 011452Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0497

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONDON MEETING

REF: STATE 166711

BEFORE LEAVING CAIRO THIS MORNING, I MANAGED TO
CONTACT FONMIN KAMEL ON SECURE PHONE TO OUTLINE ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SET FORTH REFTEL. GAVE HIM
PROPOSED JULY 18-19 DATES AND TOLD HIM THAT EMBASSY LONDON
HAS OBTAINED OFFER FROM CHURCHILL HOTEL OF 70 ROOMS ON
CONTINGENCY BASIS. I SUGGESTED THAT GOE INSTRUCT ITS
EMBASSY IN LONDON RESERVE UP TO 20 ROOMS AT CHURCHILL
FOR EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

2. KAMEL, WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR ARAB LEAGUE
SESSION ON YEMEN, HAD NO PROBLEM WITH JULY 18-19 DATES.
HE SAID GOE DOES NOT WISH TO ACT RIGHT NOW TO RESERVE
THE 20 ROOMS. WORD OF THIS WOULD SURELY LEAK. THIS
IN TURN WOULD MAKE ISRAELIS AND OTHERS BELIEVE THAT
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THE MEETING IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. PREDICTABLY, HE
EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE AGAIN
LEAKED THE NEW DATES AND THE VENUE FOR THE MEETING.
GOE, HE STATED, DOES NOT WANT TO RESERVE HOTEL
ROOMS UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION HAS
BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED.

3. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT CHURCHILL HOTEL WILL ONLY HOLD THE RESERVATIONS THROUGH JULY 3, HENCE GOE SHOULD ACT QUICKLY LEST NEEDED ACCOMMODATIONS NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE. KAMEL'S SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WAS SIMPLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT, SINCE EMBASSY LONDON HAS ALREADY RESERVED 70 ROOMS, WE RETAIN 20 IN ADDITION TO THE 30 FOR OUR USE. AT A LATER DATE, AFTER THE INVITATION IS ACCEPTED, GOE WILL THEN TAKE THESE 20 ROOMS OFF OUR HANDS.

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS ARE A BIT MIFFED THAT EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE TAKING A FONMINS MEETING IN LONDON FOR GRANTED AND SPEAKING PUBLICLY ABOUT IT. KAMEL CLAIMS OTHER ARABS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEETING. GOE IS TAKING POSITION WITH ARAB AND OTHER INTERLOCUTORS THAT IT HAS NOT UP TO NOW AGREED TO ANY SUCH MEETING, BUT WILL CONSIDER AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN AND IF ONE COMES. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER KAMEL'S PROPOSAL THAT WE HOLD THE 20 ROOMS UNTIL GOE DELEGATION IS READY TAKE THEM OVER IS AGREEABLE. MCCLELLAND

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